

**Punjab Government announced Sports Policy for the State of Punjab. Keeping in view all the promotional aspects of sports and welfare of the Sportspersons, a draft of the policy has prepared. To get the view points of the public, draft of the policy has been uploaded on the website of the department. Valueable suggestions of the public and sports persons will be considered and incorporated in the draft before notification. Suggestions of the public are welcomed till first week of December 2009.**

**GOVT. OF PUNJAB**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS & YOUTH SERVICES**

**DRAFT**

**SPORTS POLICY – 2009**

**1. Preamble:**

1.1 The competitive Sports & Games are integral part of life of human beings and there is an urgent need to promote sports in a systematic manner. In order to achieve excellence in sports, both at National and International levels, there is a need to streamline the functioning of the department, adopt a uniform policy so that sports is broad based, sports activities in the state are well spread over the year; the competitions are held regularly; people of different stratas in the society get a fair chance to show their mettle; harness talent at grass root level besides providing beneficial recreation and fostering of social harmony and discipline.

**2. VISION**

2.1 To make Punjab a vibrant leading edge state in the sports arena, to create adequate infrastructure, promote rural games, adopt maximum disciplines of Olympic games, broadbase sports, synergise the activities of Sports and Education Departments, raise the standards of sports in the state; promote the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie, harness talent at the grass root level, nurture the potential sportspersons and achieve excellence in the sports at both National and International level and give incentives to sportspersons who win laurels for the State at National and International levels.

**3. PRINCIPLES**

- 3.1 To ensure autonomy in sports, a close coordination with Punjab Olympic Association and the other state level sports associations, so that the spirit of Olympic games is respected, safeguarded and developed.
- 3.2 To take all steps to bring more transparency in the working of sports associations.
- 3.3 To ensure sustainable financial supporting to POA and other state level sports associations of disciplines of Olympic games to ensure regular

activity in the field of sports and at the same time encourage them to create their own sources of revenue to obviate total dependence on the state.

- 3.4 For giving financial assistance to State level associations a self contained transparent policy shall be framed.
- 3.5 To provide technical manpower to state sports associations and academic institutes.
- 3.6 To take appropriate steps to encourage involvement of Private and Corporate sector in development of sports infrastructure, training and conduct of sports competitions.

#### **4. OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 Broad basing of sports in three tier system i.e. State level, District level and Village level.
- 4.2 To develop sports culture in the state by providing improved sports facilities at all levels.
- 4.3 To lay emphasis on improving the existing sports infrastructure and develop latest state-of-the art sports infrastructure in the state at each District headquarter with pro-active support of Municipal Corporations/ Councils and Private/ Corporate sector.
- 4.4 To create sports infrastructure and sports facilities at village and block level through Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) and other state level schemes.
- 4.5 To set up a Punjab Institute of Sports, a centre of excellence at Jalandhar.
- 4.6 To set up Regional Training Centres.
- 4.7 To strengthen the sports wings in schools and colleges.
- 4.8 To encourage sports & youth clubs to conduct sports activities.
- 4.9 To develop synthetic surfaces for Athletics, Hockey & other games in the state.
- 4.10 To take effective steps to patronize and promote local games like Circle Kabaddi, Gatka, Tug of War etc.
- 4.11 To provide sports equipment to all coaching centres, sports wings and coaching camps for selected competitions.

- 4.12 To organize sports competitions at block, district, state, national and international levels.
- 4.13 To organize seminars/ clinics for coaches/players to update their knowledge by inviting coaches of international level.
- 4.14 To provide cash incentives, awards and employment opportunities to outstanding sportspersons.
- 4.15 To establish a Scientific Evaluation and Monitoring Lab.
- 4.16 Promotion of sports among girls and women to be encouraged.
- 4.17 Promotion of sports for disabled to be encouraged.

## **5. MECHANISM TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES**

### **5.1 SPORTS IN GENERAL**

- 5.2 To provide access to sports for all classes of citizens in all segments of society.
- 5.3 Provision of funds to create basic sports infrastructure and development of playfields in all the villages and blocks of the state, during the next ten years. Annual acquisition and operational grants would be provided to purchase sports equipment and running of sports activities by the trained sports volunteers.
- 5.4 Creation of basic sports facilities in schools/colleges and to make sports an integral part of school/college curriculum.
- 5.5 To assist educational institutions, boards, corporations & private undertakings to organize sports competitions and to patronize specific games by creating their own teams.
- 5.6 Competitions at block, district, state and national level to be encouraged and Annual League Format in selected sports disciplines, to be introduced.
- 5.7 To encourage girls and women participation in sports and organizing tournaments at all levels, exclusively for girls.
- 5.8 To make optimal use of Govt. of India funds to create sports infrastructure, running of sports activities and organization of tournaments at various levels.

- 5.9 To make sports infrastructure disabled friendly and promote sports among persons with disabilities.
- 5.10 High priority will be accorded to development of sports and regular conduct of sporting events at Block, District and State levels. Mass participation will be ensured by involving institutions of Panchayati Raj, local bodies of towns and cities, schools and colleges, sports associations, youth clubs, corporate houses and semi/ autonomous bodies of the government. Earnest efforts shall be made to promote club culture to ensure autonomy.
- 5.11 The broad basing of sports will be achieved by creating a 3 tier system as under:-
- a. Block Level.
  - b. District Level.
  - c. State Level.
- 5.12 **Integration of sports with education:** The Department of Sports and Youth Services will ensure that the annual sports calendar is prepared in synchronisation with the academic calendar in such a manner that it allows the students to take active part in sports competitions without having any adverse impact on their academic performance.
- 5.13 **Appointment of Coaches:** Adequate number of coaches will be provided in all districts. Besides the regular appointees the shortfall of coaches, if any, will be met by appointing coaches on contract basis.

## 5.14 **INFORMATION & DOCUMENTATION**

- 5.14.1 To disseminate information to the general public, the Sports Department will make use of all available information technology tools. The website of the department shall contain upto date information of sportspersons, sports infrastructure, different schemes of the department, records of different level of the competitions.
- 5.14.2 The Sports Department will strengthen the existing libraries in the offices of Districts Sports Officers. A state level sports library will also be established in the Office of Director Sports, Punjab.

## 6. **SPORTS IN PARTICULAR**

- 6.1 In order to develop sports standards in schools and colleges, which have adequate sports infrastructure and show keen interest in organizing specific sports, their needs of technical support and of basic equipment, trained personnel and diet charges shall be met by the state to some extent. The

govt. would encourage the opening up of new sports wings and strengthen the existing ones, to create ideal feeding centres. The selected players would be provided boarding/lodging, insurance and medical cover, sports infrastructure, equipment, kitting and training by the expert coaches. These sports wings would serve as feeding grounds for the Centres of Excellence. The diet charges of the players would be revised from time to time, keeping in view the prevailing prices.

- 6.2 To give competition exposure to the players, competitions at block, district, state and national level would be organized.
- 6.3 The government would provide financial assistance to all District Olympic Associations of the state to conduct district level competitions, through District Sports Associations. Financial assistance upto 10,000/- per association would be provided. Guidelines in this regards shall be issued separately. To encourage participation and competitiveness at grass-root level, all the District Olympic Associations of the state shall be encouraged to organise district level games . The Sports Department shall provide financial assistance @ Rs. 2.00 lac per year to every DOA for this purpose.
- 6.4 To commemorate birthday of Hockey Legend Major Dhyhan Chand every year, 29<sup>th</sup> August would be celebrated as National Sports Day at each district headquarter. The District Olympic Associations shall organise popular sports events like Cycle race, Marathon, Tug of War, Circle Kabaddi, and other games on this occasion. It would be ensured that the finals of Inter Block Tournament under PYKKA Scheme are held on this day and awards to the winning teams are distributed on this occasion.
- 6.5 The state government recognises the contribution of education institutions in the promotion of sports. It has always encouraged the creation of sports infrastructure in the universities which organise inter-college tournaments in different disciplines and participate in all India Inter University Tournaments. Govt. of India presents Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad (MAKA) trophy every year to the university which gives best overall performance. The Universities situated in Punjab have the honour to bag this award for the last 27 Years.
- 6.6 The universities in the state shall be further encouraged to maintain their supremacy at All India Inter University Level and will be encouraged by providing a lump sum grant of 1.00 crore every time for winning MAKA trophy.

## **7. EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS**

- 7.1 Achieving excellence and winning medals in the Olympics and other international sports events has been a matter of pride for all nations of the world. Many countries have been spending sizable resources and providing

best of facilities to the top sports persons for coaching, training etc. on a long term basis to enhance their performance in various international sports events, winning laurels for the country. Over years, competition at international level is getting tougher and tougher. Latest technology is being adopted increasingly for improving upon the existing world records. International sports have become extremely competitive and infact no longer subscribe to the theory of “Sports” for the sake of sports.

- 7.2 International competitive sports have also become extremely expensive owing to huge investments required in equipment, costly coaching and training services etc. The centre and states have been supporting high performing national sportspersons who represent the country and participate in recognized international competitions. In some cases, corporate sponsors step in to provide resources to sportspersons to train and gain international exposure in return for commercial endorsements and brand ambassador duties for the sponsors. It may have been helpful in individual cases but may not always lead to most desirable results.
- 7.3 Under the New Sports Policy, the Punjab Govt. commits itself to provide the necessary financial and other support to outstanding sportspersons to pursue the goal of winning medals in world class competitions.
- 7.4 The govt. intends to organize competitions of international level in selected sports disciplines on annual basis to provide international exposure to our national teams and facilitate people of the state to witness international matches live.
- 7.5 The govt. also intends to establish Punjab Institute of Sports at Jalandhar which would serve as a ‘Centre of Excellence’ for international medal prospects of the state. They would be provided modern state-of-the art sports infrastructure, nutritious diet, latest sports equipment and training on scientific lines.
- 7.6 Three Regional Training Centres, one each in Majha, Malwa and Doaba would also be established and provided with hi-tech sports facilities.
- 7.7 The govt. will adopt innovative methods to mobilize funds from the state, para statal bodies, private and corporate sector, for promotion of sports.

7.8 Concerted efforts would be made to revive Punjab's pre-eminent position in the national game of hockey and focus would be on selected individual games.

## **8. SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE**

8.1 The Govt. is committed to provide funds for development of playgrounds in all the villages and blocks of the state, in the next ten years.

8.2 Latest sports infrastructure for different games would be developed in the state and efforts shall be made to provide synthetic surfaces in the games of hockey, athletics, badminton, lawn tennis, handball, basketball, etc.

8.3 Modern state-of-the art, multispeciality sports complex would be developed at SAS Nagar.

8.4 World class Hockey and Cricket Stadiums would be developed in the state.

8.5 Training Synthetic Hockey Grounds would be developed in rich pockets of hockey.

## **9. AWARDS AND INCENTIVES TO SPORTSPERSONS**

9.1 The state awards are presented to the sportspersons for their outstanding achievement in the field of sports. The state govt. is fully alive to its responsibility to nurture, facilitate and encourage sportspersons. It has instituted Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award for the sportspersons who bring laurels and glory to the state and country by winning medals at national and international level. Apart from Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award, the other awards and incentives which shall be conferred upon sportspersons of the state are detailed at Annexure 'A'.

9.2 The award money for Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award and other state awards to be instituted by the govt., would be reviewed periodically, in consonance with prevailing value of money.

9.3 The govt. intends to institute some more state awards in future for further encouragement of sports-persons/ sports officials/ sports administrators and sports promoters.

9.4 The cash awards are introduced primarily to compensate the medal winners of national/international sports events for the expenses incurred on diet, training, preparations and for the deprivations suffered by them due to their

devotion and service to sports. The objective is also to mitigate the sufferings caused due to hardships encountered during preparation. Another purpose of the cash awards is to encourage and motivate the outstanding sportspersons for even higher achievements and to attract the younger generation to take to sports as a career. These cash awards definitely help to rehabilitate the medal winners with honour, dignity and comfort after the conclusion of their active sports career which is generally of a very short duration. The cash awards are also the expression of appreciation and gratitude of the state to the medal winners for winning laurels for the state and country.

- 9.5 The govt. has formulated Cash Award Policy for outstanding sportspersons of the state. The quantum of money of cash awards would be enhanced from time to time, keeping in view the high status of these awards.
- 9.6 The games covered under Cash Award Policy shall be reviewed periodically.
- 9.7 Bus concession upto 75% would be provided to players who have participated in National level championships and free travel concession to Arjuna Awardee, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Awardee, Medalist of Asian/Commonwealth games and Olympian in Punjab Roadways ordinary and deluxe/AC buses.

## **10. PENSION TO EMINENT SPORTSPERSONS**

- 10.1 There is a need to have a provision of pension for eminent sportspersons to give an unambiguous message to all those talented sportspersons, who aspire to become international champions, that the govt. would back appreciation of their achievement with tangible and meaningful life-time assistance in the form of a pension. The assured monthly income is a compensation for the opportunities spurned by sportsmen at the altar of growing commercialization of sports to win laurels for the country.
- 10.2 The rates at which the Sports Department/ Punjab State Sports Council would provide pension to medalists and participants of Olympics and other International competitions, are appended as Annexure 'B'. The eligibility criteria for the Pension Scheme and its rates shall be reviewed periodically to neutralize the impact of inflation.

## **11. RECRUITMENT POLICY**

- 11.1 The Govt. in the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms has formulated a Recruitment Policy to provide reservation in employment to outstanding sportspersons of the state.

11.2 The Govt. will review the Recruitment Policy from time to time to provide wider employment opportunities to sportsmen.

## **12. INVOLVEMENT OF NRI'S FOR GIVING FILLIP TO SPORTS**

12.1 A large number of Punjabis, particularly from the Doaba region who migrated to foreign lands have retained strong emotional and cultural bonds with Punjab. Many a times, they display their affection and generosity by organizing rural tournaments with impressive participation of several teams. The games they particularly patronize are Circle Kabaddi, Wrestling, Weightlifting, Hockey and Football.

12.2 The government will join hands with such NRI's from Punjab and apart from assisting them in the organization of these tournaments, it shall also give them proper honour and recognition. It will have a salutary effect and shall encourage a large number of NRI's to contribute more substantially to make sports a mass movement in villages. With the active association of the government these tournaments shall also acquire a higher status and prestigious teams would start participating in them, raising the standard of competition.

## **13. INVOLVEMENT OF SEMI-GOVT. CORPORATIONS AND BOARDS**

13.1 All the Corporations/Boards and Apex Cooperative Institutions in the state would be brought under the overall umbrella of SAPSO (Sports Associations of Punjab Semi-Government Organizations). These Organizations shall be encouraged to adopt atleast one game of their choice.

The purpose of setting up SAPSO and adoption of games by individual organizations would be four-fold :-

- (i) To promote Sports Culture in the Units, which would have the effect of improving overall discipline, increase productivity and bring about close identification and a feeling of pride among the employees in these organizations. Sports are acknowledged as an important tool for improving employee-management relations.
- (ii) It will give a tremendous boost to the promotion of Sports by opening up facilities for training of budding sportsmen generating Competition among them due to suitable incentives.

- (iii) It will prevent drain of sportsmen and women from Punjab because the scheme will open up more avenues of employment within the home state.
- (iv) These Corporations/Boards will compliment Govt. effort by contributing in money and resources to augment sporting facilities in the State.

#### **14. EXEMPTION OF ENTERTAINMENT DUTY ON SPORTS TOURNAMENTS/ EVENTS**

14.1 With an aim to open up more avenues of competition, and to improve financial well being of sports organizations and clubs, govt. shall exempt sports competitions/ events from payment of entertainment duty even when the money is raised by the organizers, by ticketing the event in Olympic disciplines including Circle style Kabaddi.

14.2 The possibility to levy some cess on liquor or license fee, would also be explored to raise adequate financial resources for promotion of sports.

#### **15. SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR GENERATING ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES BY ASSOCIATING PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHER BODIES**

15.1 The govt. would endeavour to involve Private Sector, Industrial and Business Houses to make contribution for promotion of sports either by employing sportsmen or by sponsoring sports events. The govt. would also rope in the private sector by giving suitable recognition to such industrial houses which come forward to help sports projects. A suitable package of attractive incentives shall be offered to encourage industrial and business houses for sports promotion.

#### **16. SETTING UP OF PUNJAB SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE BOARD.**

16.1 For proper and sustained development of sports, it is imperative that sports infrastructure is continuously developed, upgraded and maintained. To achieve this objective, the State Government may set up a Board for the development and maintenance of sports infrastructure under the name and style of Punjab Sports Infrastructure Development And Maintenance Board.

16.2 The Govt. will create adequate and appropriate sports related infrastructure at Block, District and State levels through funds from budgetary provisions, semi government boards/ corporations and private corporate houses.

- 16.3 The maintenance of different stadia shall be done by Punjab Sports Infrastructure Development and Maintenance Board. Till the board comes into existence and is fully operationalised, the Sports Department shall provide a lump sum grant of 5.00 lac per district per year to District Sports Councils for the maintenance of stadia. The Sports Department would depute coach(es) for operation and maintenance of block level stadia. A committee comprising of principal/headmaster of the school, coach, physical education teacher of the school and the concerned sarpanches would be setup to make the stadiums operational.
- 16.4 To make optimal use of sports stadiums and sports infrastructure existing in universities and other educational institutions, a suitable institutional frame work shall be evolved so that it could be used by different organizations and sportsmen of the state.